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Christine Spare

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Christine Spare

Signature

November 10, 2003

Date of Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of)	Examiner: M. Chambers
)	
Takashi Ejiri)	Group Art Unit: 3753
)	
Title: AN APPARATUS FOR VISUALLY)	
CHECKING THE OPERATION STATUS))	
OF A STOP VALVE, AND A MANUAL)	
OPENING APPARATUS FOR A)	
NORMALLY-CLOSED VALVE)	
)	(Our Docket No.: 4415-15)
Serial No.: 09/815,735)	
)	
Filed on: March 23, 2001)	

Hartford, Connecticut, November 10, 2003

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

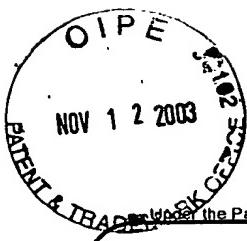
RESPONSE ACCOMPANYING
A REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Dear SIR:

The following is a Response to the final Office Action dated August 8, 2003 in the above-identified patent application. The Applicant provides remarks directed towards the Examiner's rejection on the accompanying sheets.

The Applicant has simultaneously filed a Request for Continued Examination in order to remove the "final" status from the present Application.

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PTO/SB/30 (08-03)

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**Request
For
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal**

Address to:
Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/815,735
Filing Date	March 23, 2001
First Named Inventor	Takashi Ejiri
Art Unit	3753
Examiner Name	M. Chambers
Attorney Docket Number	4415-15

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

- 1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

- a. Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
 - i. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Rely Brief previously filed on _____
 - ii. Other _____
- b. Enclosed
 - i. Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
- a. Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 13-0235

- i. RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
 - ii. Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.138 and 1.17)
 - iii. Other _____
- b. Check in the amount of \$ 770.00 enclosed
- c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Timothy A. Johnson	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	51,234
Signature	<i>Timothy A. Johnson</i>	Date	November 10, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

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Name (Print/Type)	Christine Spore	Date	November 10, 2003
Signature	<i>Christine Spore</i>		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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